

It is easy enough to understand why the gay and festive eddyite quacks and "readers" and the like are opposed to everything that makes for public health or the lessening of disease. The more disease there is, the more "absent treatments" and "healings" they will be called upon to do. Giving "absent treatment" to a smallpox, typhoid or tuberculous patient is a neat, clean, safe and exceeding profitable occupation. There is no danger of personal contagion and there is no outlay of time or money for study, equipment, office rent, etc. It is all just "cold turkey" and the more sickness and disease in the community, the more money for the "reader" and the "healer." The wife of our good Senator Works is said to be a "healer"; can it be that purely business reasons lead the Senator to oppose national public health legislation? It is hardly reasonable to predicate for one class of people nothing but the most perfect brand of purity of motive and for another class nothing but the basest of designs; it is not reasonable to assume that all eddyites are without guile and all physicians full of it. Human nature is very much human nature wherever you find it. And one must not forget the safety and the comfort—to say nothing of the great harvest—in giving absent treatments at several dollars per!

At the time of writing we have been sending out the packages of stickers to be pasted upon bills and thus jog the mind of slow-pay patients only about a month, **"STICKERS"** and thus jog the mind of slow-pay patients only about a month, **BRING COIN.** yet several requests have come in for more of them. One man writes: "I made use of the stickers you were kind enough to send me and they worked so well that I am anxious to secure more. How can I get them?" That came from San Bernardino County. A member in San Francisco called at the office and rather smilingly and somewhat doubtfully took away a packet, remarking that he was afraid they would hardly do for his patients; six days later he came in and got two more lots, saying that they worked remarkably well. There are still some on hand to be had for the asking; just drop a line to the Secretary, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, Butler Building, San Francisco, and you will get a set by return mail. They are sent only on request for the Council thought that if a thing was not worth asking for it was not worth while sending unasked. The present supply will be sent free upon request; whether, when these are exhausted, they will still be sent free or whether a small charge—just enough to cover the cost—will be made, are questions that the Council will decide later on.

A suggestion to County Secretaries: Why not use these on the bills you send out for dues to those members who are forgetful and put off paying their dues?

The week of September 23rd to 28th saw two very important meetings in this country; one, at Washington, the International **IMPORTANT MEETINGS.** Congress on Hygiene and Demography, was of the greatest importance to the whole country and, in fact, to the whole scientific world. The other, at Berkeley, the meeting of the health officers of the state, was also very successful and will have a far reaching influence for good. The public health exhibition at Washington is said to have been remarkably good. It opened September 16th and remained open to the public till October 4th, being visited by many thousands of people. Some of the most interesting discussions at the Berkeley meeting are reported to have been raised by the introduction of questions outside of medicine but directly related to it, as for instance the housing problem and the inspection of schools and school children. It would seem to be a good idea to have one or more sessions of this sort in connection with the annual meetings of the State Medical Society.

Poliomyelitis was the subject of a most interesting discussion at the International Congress and it is quite evident that our knowledge concerning this disease is **BITING FLY INDICTED.** being rapidly increased. Dr. M. J. Rosenau, of Boston, reported some exceedingly interesting experiments of his own in which he seems to have proved within reasonable doubt that the disease is transmitted by the biting fly, or *Stomoxys calcitrans*, a most vicious and voracious fly that is found quite commonly in and around stables and in their vicinity. It can easily bite through a cloth garment or the hide of a horse or cow; its diet is blood and it does not seem to care for anything else. These flies were caught and allowed to feed upon monkeys confined in screened cages and with all the checks, controls and safeguards accompanying scientific experimental work. Monkeys were then infected with poliomyelitis, the flies were allowed to feed on them and were then transferred to other cages containing healthy monkeys. Of twelve healthy monkeys so exposed, six, at the time of reporting, had symptoms of the disease, three in a virulent form, and two or three others were beginning to show symptoms. It seems to be evident that, no matter what other modes of introduction of the virus may exist, and there are probably others, the fly must stand for the indictment of being at least one of the agents in disseminating this terrible disease.